AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus connected to a plurality of information terminals by way of a network, comprising:

storing means for storing user information;

authenticating means for authenticating a user;

recording means for recording one or more non-binding requests for an offer to sell goods transmitted by a first customer, the first customer authenticated by said authenticating means;

supplying means for supplying a service list of the non-binding requests recorded by said recording means to one or more shops, the shops being authenticated by said authenticating means;

recording means for recording submitted offers to sell goods, the submitted offers transmitted by the shops in response to the non-binding requests in said service list;

searching means for searching for the submitted offers to sell goods, in response to a demand from the first customer; and

transferring means for transferring, to the first customer, a submitted requests list of the non-binding requests transmitted by the first customer;

wherein the searching means, in response to a demand from a second customer, allows the second customer to search the non-binding requests for an offer to sell goods submitted by the first customer, and

wherein the transferring means transfers contents of first customer's non-binding requests to the second customer, and the second customer views and checks the contents of the first customer's non-binding requests before making a purchase.

2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for processing information among a plurality of information terminals connected to a network, said method comprising the steps of:

storing user information for each of said information terminals;

authenticating a user based on said user information;

authenticating one or more shops;

recording one or more non-binding requests for an offer to sell goods transmitted by a first customer authenticated in said authenticating step,

supplying a service list of the non-binding requests recorded in said recording step to the one or more shops;

recording submitted offers to sell goods transmitted by the shops in response to the non-binding requests in said service list;

searching for the submitted offers to sell goods in response to a demand from the first customer,

transferring, to the first customer, a submitted requests list of the non-binding requests transmitted by the first customer; and

searching, in response to a demand from a second customer, the non-binding requests for an offer to sell goods submitted by the first customer,

<u>transferring contents of first customer's non-binding requests to the second</u>

<u>customer, wherein the second customer views and checks the contents of the first</u>

<u>customer's non-binding requests before making a purchase.</u>

8-13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second customer can purchase goods using non-binding requests for an offer to sell goods from the first customer.

15.   (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user information includes a user ID, a password, and an electronic mail address.

16.   (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the authenticating means uses the user information stored in the storing means to authenticate the user.

17.   (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the submitted offers include direct links to web pages specified by the shops.

18.   (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the submitted requests list transferred to the first customer indicates the availability of submitted offers corresponding to the non-binding requests.

19.   (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transferring means transfers the submitted requests list to the first customer using electronic mail.

20.   (Canceled)

21.   (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 7, including a step where the second customer purchases goods using non-binding requests for an offer to sell goods from the first customer.

22.   (Previously presented) The information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the user information includes a user ID, a password, and an electronic mail address.

23.   (Previously presented) The information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the authenticating step is done using the user information stored during the storing step.

24.   (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the submitted offers include direct links to web pages specified by the shops.

25.   (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the submitted requests list of non-binding requests transferred to the first customer indicates the availability of submitted offers corresponding to the non-binding requests.

26.   (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the step of transferring the submitted requests list to the first customer is done by electronic mail.

27.   (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the submitted offers indicate whether the corresponding shop has the goods in stock.

28.　　(Previously Presented) The method for processing information according to claim 7, wherein the submitted offers indicate whether the corresponding shop has the goods in stock.